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ters. The same remarks apply with reference to the feature of coloration set forth in the diagnosis. The steely blue rather than brassy tone of the metallic sheen is easy enough to see in the coast-district birds; but it begins to fail in the birds from the Sierran foothills. To express the situation in another way, *Euphagus cyanocephalus cyanocephalus* intergrades with *E. c. minusculus* over a rather wide belt of country adjacent to and including the Sierra Nevada.

Berkeley, California, May 31, 1920.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

A Feeding Habit of the Cedar Waxwing.—The following observations, disclosing a habit of the Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) which was unfamiliar to the writer, may perhaps be of interest to others. The note-book entry was made in the Flathead Forest, near Belton, Montana.

August 17, 1915, at Ouzel Creek, on the Middle Fork trail: I watched a Cedar Waxwing feeding berries to her full-grown young. After descending to a service-berry bush and remaining there a few seconds, the bird flew up to a dead tree, followed by the young birds, which sat in expectant attitudes near her. The parent had a red (unripe) berry in her bill and she fed this at once to one of her family. She then poked her head toward the young again, gave a little gulp, and behold! another berry was in her bill. This she gave to a youngster near her and at once produced another berry in like manner; then another and still another, until she had fed them five whole berries in succession. Although each berry was brought forth with a distinctly visible gulp it apparently did not involve much effort.—ALEXANDER D. DU BOIS, *Chicago, February 8, 1920.*

A Plague of Rufous-crowned Sparrows.—From about the middle of November, 1919, to the middle of March, 1920, there was a flock of Rufous-crowned Sparrows (*Aimophila ruficeps*) around my home in Eagle Rock. The birds were exceedingly troublesome because of the damage they did to plants. A small area of lawn close to some shrubbery was picked almost bare around the edges, the clover being eaten first and then the grass. It was necessary to cover young seedlings with wire netting to prevent complete loss; older plants were badly injured. Buds on bamboos were eaten during the colder part of the year, and for a few days later in the season, the birds were to be seen eating the buds of fruit trees, but they left before much harm had been done. The flock of *ruficeps* numbered about twenty. The sparrows kept together much as quails do and would fly or run from one place to another at the same time.

It may be of interest that "white-crowns" were really uncommon about the place this year until the rufous-crowns had disappeared, when both the Intermediate and Golden-crowned Sparrows became fairly abundant. This is the first year that sparrows have been troublesome in any way, though I have often wondered why we escaped the depredations so commonly committed. I have never seen a *ruficeps* about the grounds until this winter, but have heard them singing on the brush-covered hillsides. Perhaps the visitation of rufous-crowns should be looked upon as an honor, but from one point of view it was certainly a nuisance.—C. O. ESTERLY, *Eagle Rock, California, March 29, 1920.*

Winter Nesting of the Ground Dove.—The Mexican Ground Dove (*Chaemepelia passerina pallescens*) has been noted as a rare spring visitor in this vicinity (Brawley, Imperial County, California) since 1912, in which year it was first seen on February 1. A pair was seen on March 30 of that year, and one of the birds shot for identification. It has been seen on several occasions since, but no nests have been found until this year.

On November 22, 1919, a dove was seen in my yard and on the 25th a dead specimen was found in an irrigating canal. I was very much surprised on December 21 to find the half of a small white egg-shell and after considerable search to find a Ground Dove brooding a single young in its nest in a eucalyptus tree. The nest was well built for a dove's nest and being set on some lodged bark was well hidden from view from the ground.

The nesting birds were not disturbed and two weeks later the two old doves and the young were discovered feeding on the ground. They soon flew to a tree where the young bird was fed by regurgitation, but by one of the parents only. No time was available for observation until the following Sunday when the three doves were again seen feeding, and later all three flew to an umbrella tree where the young dove was fed by both parent doves. The young dove after being fed once hopped onto the old birds back then down to the limb on which the old dove was perched; then, when not being fed, it extended its wing out over the parent dove and gently tapped the back of its parent until it was fed again. It then flew to where the other parent dove was perched, where it went through the same actions. Whether this is typical of the behavior of young Ground Doves I am unable to say.

Two Ground Doves were seen pursuing one another through the trees on January 16, 1920, to all appearances mated. A second nest of this species of dove was found on the 22nd of January. This nest contained but one young bird which left the nest the next day and has not been seen since. This nest was also in a eucalyptus tree, about 18 feet from the ground, and was a rebuilt Mourning Dove's nest. This second nest was watched, and on February 14 was seen to have a sitting Ground Dove on it. The two eggs it contained were collected the next day and found to have been incubated already several days. —JOHN C. FORTINER, *Brawley, California, February 29, 1920.*

Calaveras Warbler in San Benito County, California.—The Calaveras Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla gutturalis*) is well known in high altitudes along the Sierras in California, where it breeds over an extended range, and it is found also on the higher mountains north of Lake County and in the migrations on the lowlands in southern California. It has seldom been noted, however, on the ocean side of the great valleys or along the coast north of Santa Barbara. Two records only in this area between Santa Barbara and Lake counties are all that I remember having noticed; one made by Joseph Grinnell just back of the Berkeley campus on September 9, 1912, when two individuals were seen by him at close range (Condor, xvi, 1914, p. 37), and one for San Benito County, where two birds of this species were noted on April 20, 1899, by the late Mr. T. E. Slevin and myself, as we were collecting together near Paicines, one of the birds being secured by him (Condor, iii, 1901, p. 126).

This year, on April 17 (1920), in company with Dr. G. Dallas Hanna, of the Department of Palaeontology, California Academy of Sciences, a number were noted about four miles southeast of The Pinnacles, on Bear Valley Creek, as near as we could make out from our map. Dr. Hanna and I had motored from Hollister to "The Pinnacles", a rather striking mass of rocks where a great "fault" has occurred, about 30 miles south of that town. It was a cold, windy day, and having one long stretch of very badly cut up road to negotiate we arrived late at our destination. At one particularly inviting spot on Bear Valley Creek we were inclined to stop, but the delay we had experienced decided us to push on as we did not then know how much longer it would take us to reach our objective point. Reaching this spot about three o'clock in the afternoon on our return, however, we concluded that we had time enough to spare for this work and so stopped at a place where the little stream ran between a small meadow and a brushy hillside, with willows and cottonwoods on its banks—an ideal place for warblers. The first bird that caught my eye was a Calaveras Warbler, and further search developed the fact that there was quite a number of individuals of this species moving about. The high wind made it very difficult to distinguish these warblers from some of the other species among the constantly moving leaves and branches of the trees, but we certainly saw twenty-five or thirty of them, at least. They were very restless and seemed to be moving up stream in a northerly direction, often leaving the trees along the stream to fly up into the brush, or vice versa. The difficulty of identifying them quickly in the midst of fluttering

leaves was so great that about the time we would have one positively identified it would be just too late to shoot.

Dr. Hanna kindly assisted me in the endeavor to procure specimens for identification and we finally succeeded in securing four. It was a pity that we did not obtain a greater number, for those taken all proved to be males, and we do not know whether there were any females in this flight, or whether the males were migrating alone, as happens with some species.

Three days later (April 20), we went some distance up the Tres Pinos Creek into the Panoche Pass, without going as far as the summit. This also was a cold windy day, and but few birds were seen or heard. I did not see any Calaveras Warblers to be sure of, myself, but Dr. Hanna secured another male here. We were very unfortunate in having such weather to contend with, as it hampered our observations extremely. While Dr. Hanna was primarily interested in his own line he also kept a keen eye open for birds, to which he is also very partial, thereby being of great assistance in my work, and for which I take this opportunity of thanking him.

Several other likely canyons in the county were visited, particularly along small streams with more or less wooded banks, but no more of this species were found among the numbers of the commoner warblers that were met with. Press of other matters compelled us to return to San Francisco without having had the time to go back to The Pinnacles for a more thorough study of the situation, but I will hope for an opportunity next spring to look farther into the matter, and to ascertain whether or not this species migrates regularly along that range of mountains.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, May 6, 1920.*

Bald Eagle at Wawona.—Upon a visit to Fresno, California, in 1916, I saw in the store of Mr. F. G. Normart, a local taxidermist, a mounted specimen of the Bald Eagle, presumably the southern subspecies, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus*. Inquiry developed that the bird had been killed at Wawona, Mariposa County, about July, 1914.—TRACY I. STORER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, May 14, 1920.*

Another Rusty Song Sparrow from Southern California.—On December 1, 1919, while collecting Fox Sparrows along a little canyon to the north of here, I flushed a very dark colored Song Sparrow from the weeds. The bird was collected and sent to Mr. H. S. Swarth for his determination. He says: "The dark colored song sparrow seems to me to be *Melospiza melodia rufina*. At any rate I can duplicate it with birds from the known habitat of that subspecies." There appears to be only one other known occurrence for this form for southern California, and that from Riverside (Swarth, Condor, XII, 1910, p. 108).—WRIGHT M. PIERCE, *Claremont, California, February 23, 1920.*

The Harris Hawk a Breeder in California.—On March 30 of this year (1920) I noticed a pair of Harris Hawks (*Parabuteo unicinctus harrisi*) in the act of mating near Brawley in Imperial County. I was not able to find their nest, but the next day about eight miles away and three miles west of Calpatria I took a set of three eggs. These were very heavily incubated. As far as I am aware, this is the first record of the bird nesting in California, but judging from my own observation and that of others there is reason to believe that the bird will soon become a regular breeder in the Imperial Valley.

The nest was built in the crotch of a willow tree about thirty-five feet above the ground. It was on the outer fringe of a thick growth from the overflow of the Alamo River and easily visible from a near-by farm house. The climb was made for me by Ashton Rood, a young boy, and so I am unable to give an accurate description of the nest.—GRIFFING BANCROFT, *San Diego, California, May 27, 1920.*

Further Notes on Differential Sex Migration.—I received the following letter from Mr. John A. Gregg of Burlington, Iowa, in response to my article on "Differential Sex Migrations of Mallards in New Mexico", recently published in the Condor. Mr. Gregg is an experienced sportsman and a keen and reliable observer.

"I was particularly interested in your article for the reason that for a great many years I have noticed the same differential applies in this territory. I recall shooting

one evening in November, either in 1901 or 1903, on Mercer swale in Crystal Lake Grounds, when there was a great flight of Mallards on, commencing about 3:00 P. M. They came in, in very large droves, and it was the exception to see a drake among them. I was out early the next morning and for the first few hours there were very few ducks, but about 10:00 or 11:00 o'clock there came a flight of Mallards similar in size to the flight of the evening before, and this flight was practically all drakes. I have noticed this on a number of different occasions, but never in a more pronounced way than on the day named.

"In the old days when the regular fall migration of Prairie Chickens came this way, I used to put in a good many mornings and evenings on the Mississippi bluffs shooting near Burlington and although at that time I was only a boy, I discovered that it was the exception to kill a cock chicken; the great majority of the migration was of hens. But in the winter, going into the upland corn fields in this locality, I would find a preponderance of cocks, which led me to believe that the hens travelled south and congregated somewhere in that territory, leaving the cocks behind."—ALDO LEOPOLD, *Albuquerque, New Mexico, March 26, 1920.*

Bird Fatalities Resulting from a Shipwreck.—During the night of October 25, 1918, the Canadian-Pacific Steamer *Princess Sophia* was wrecked, with total loss of life, on Vanderbilt Reef, Lynn Canal, Alaska, some forty miles north of Juneau. Quantities of heavy fuel oil escaping covered the water for miles about, finally settling on the beaches. It is the writer's theory that the great loss of life, some 343 persons, was largely occasioned by the escaping oil.

When patrolling the shores of Admiralty Island and adjacent waters in a small steamer on October 28, looking for bodies from the wreck, a Murre was seen swimming towards the vessel, occasionally assisting its feet with its wings. On coming close it was seen that its breast was heavily saturated with oil, and wings and other parts to only a lesser degree. The bird came to within a few feet of the boat, which was then drifting, all the while frequently raising itself on the water, shaking itself, and flapping its wings in efforts to get rid of the oil, and occasionally preening its feathers with its beak. The bird seemed not only devoid of fear but actually to wish companionship or a stable place to rest. Threatening movements only caused it to dive a few feet away, barely under the surface of the water, which gave excellent opportunity to observe the use of the wings in assisting the feet in the diving. It was finally killed with an oar, and on examination its plumage was found to be heavily saturated with crude oil, particularly on the breast and wings. No injuries were in evidence and its plight was apparently due entirely to the oil.

Numerous other Murres were noted at no great distances, all more or less covered with the oil, which covered the surface of the water from a mere film to a heavy scum. The men who were patrolling the beaches for bodies of the wreck victims reported that there were many of "the same kind of birds" (Murres) dead and dying on the beaches, and frequently the searchers were startled by a bird still alive suddenly struggling and flopping about at their feet.

Also many gulls were observed to have stained breasts, but none was seen to be helpless. On October 30, when about 120 miles south of the scene of the disaster (near Cape Fanshaw) on a passenger steamer, the writer observed one gull with oil-stained breast join the ship for a distance, and on January 1, 1919, at Wrangell, nearly two hundred miles south of the wreck, the writer observed a Glaucous-winged Gull walking about the streets, with a spot of discoloration about four inches in diameter on breast and sides that bore every evidence of being crude oil stain and quite possibly from the wreck to the north in the preceding October.

The extent of the losses among the bird population due to this accident can not even be approximated, but it must have been considerable, as the wreck occurred a short distance north of waters much frequented by Murres, and prevailing winds and tides drove the oil southward for many miles. The 23 miles under observation on October 28 were from 22 to 45 miles from the scene of the wreck, with considerable shoreline intervening, so there is good reason to believe that the fatalities to the birds that came under observation of the writer's party were but a small percentage of the total.—ERNEST P. WALKER, *Phoenix, Arizona, March 7, 1920.*

A Correction Concerning the Tawny Creeper.—In the Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences, fourth series, ix, no. 10, p. 295, the Tawny Creeper (*Certhia familiaris occidentalis*) is listed among the species noted as nesting on Mount St. Helena, Napa County, California. In the original draft of this paper there was a question-mark after this subspecies, but somehow or other the matter escaped my mind thereafter. The nesting birds had been watched at close range, but no specimens had been secured at the time. I would like to say that some have been taken since and have proved that the former record of the form as *C. f. zelotes*, or Sierra Creeper, for that region is correct.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *San Francisco, May 6, 1920.*

A Correction Concerning the European Widgeon.—In the September-October, Condor, 1918, p. 192, I recorded a pair of this duck as bought in the Los Angeles public market. A critical comparison of the female, however, proves this bird to be *Mareca americana*, instead of *M. penelope*; hence the record of the European Widgeon stands good for the male only.—L. E. WYMAN, *Museum of History, Science and Art, Los Angeles, April 1, 1920.*

Habits of a Red-breasted Sapsucker.—In an old pepper tree, near the corner of Piedmont Avenue and Bancroft Way, in Berkeley, California, I saw for the first time a Red-breasted Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius daggetti*) on December 23, 1919. He had made but a few holes when I found him, so I am sure he had come there but recently. I made not less than four daily observations and found the bird working and feeding on this tree every day from December 26, 1919, to March 5, 1920, inclusive, with the exception of February 6 and 27 when I made six daily observations but failed to see the bird. There were two days that I was unable to make observations. Thus I saw the bird 67 days out of 71. After March 5 I made six observations daily for ten days, but the Sapsucker had gone.

The pepper tree is low-branching, forking widely about three feet above ground. It is so nearly dead that it has failed to put forth a single leaf this spring. The bird began work on one of the largest branches, making four or five very straight rows of holes, with scattering holes on either side. Judging from the moisture about the holes there must have been considerable sap. After reaching a forking, he went to a new branch and worked in the same manner. In some cases the branches are girdled by three or more circles of holes just below the branching. The Sapsucker made about eight hundred holes during his stay.

The time of working and feeding was very regular. Rarely was he in the trees before 8:45 A. M., and very rarely was he present after 2 P. M. His stay between these hours was not continuous. He laid full claim to the tree. He allowed no other bird in the branches while he was there. In language more expressive than words he told them to leave and they left. He was not shy. When I came too close he moved backward, forward, or sideways with equal rapidity and ease. Occasionally he flew out of the tree when I put my hand on his branch, but on retiring from his sight he returned in a short time.

At times the Sapsucker would sit wholly immovable for twenty minutes. He was as apt to be on the under side of the branch as on the upper. Not infrequently I found him on the branches where he had first worked, as if feeding on the insects that had gathered in these holes. Afternoons, when the Sapsucker was usually absent, I saw at various times the Anna Hummer, Sierra Junco, Audubon Warbler and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet feeding from the Sapsucker holes—whether on sap or on insects I can not say.—MRS. H. J. TAYLOR, *Berkeley, California, March 26, 1920.*

The Connecticut Warbler Not Known from Kansas.—In a list of birds from Douglas County, Kansas, published in the Condor for 1909, page 162, I recorded a warbler taken on September 14, 1908, by Mr. Charles D. Bunker and myself as the Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*). This has been known as the only occurrence of this bird in the state to the present time. Since that time I have had occasion to doubt the authenticity of this record and on re-examining the skin in question find that it is an immature specimen of the Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*). Error in identi-

fication was due to the fact that suitable material was not at hand for comparison at the time that the collection containing this warbler was first studied and the skins identified. Fortunately this erroneous record seems thus far to have been overlooked by others and so has not been quoted elsewhere.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., May 26, 1920.*

Black-crowned Night Heron Gathering Nesting Material.—On April 27, 1920, while watching for Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*) at the Cohen Estate, Buena Vista Avenue and Versailles, Alameda, California, one of the birds flew into a locust tree near at hand. It began stretching its neck and taking hold of small dead twigs with its bill, trying to break them off. After several attempts at different branches it found a twig that it could break and proceeded to carry it off. It seemed odd to find a bird that we associate with marshes and water gathering its nesting material in this manner.—MRS. G. EARLE KELLY, *Alameda, California, May 28, 1920.*

Lizard Eaten by Cactus Wren.—While collecting in the tree yucca belt about three miles west of the town of Mohave, Kern County, California, on March 30, 1920, I shot a male Cactus Wren (*Heleodytes brunneicapillus couesi*). When retrieved the bird was seen to have the abdomen slightly protuberant in the region of the gizzard as though the latter was unusually full. Upon dissection I found that the principal item of food, and the one which formed fully 95 percent of the contents of the gizzard was a Desert Brown-shouldered Lizard (*Uta stansburiana elegans*). The reptile was about two inches long. It had been swallowed entire although the head looked as though it had first been beaten almost to a pulp. I can find no previous record of a Cactus Wren taking reptiles for food. Beal (Biol. Surv. Bull. 30, 1907, pp. 64-65), in an examination of 41 stomachs from southern California, found insects to be the usual food, the only vertebrate material being some of the long bones of a tree frog.

At the locality where this bird was taken there were very few cholla cactuses and the Cactus Wrens were using the tops of the tree yuccas as song perches.—TRACY I. STORER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, May 14, 1920.*

Bohemian Waxwing in San Diego County.—On March 29, 1920, I found two dead and badly decomposed Bohemian Waxwings (*Bombycilla garrula*) on the camping ground at Vallecito, eastern San Diego County. Some one had shot them with a small caliber rifle. This is the first record for this county, I think. Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) have been rather common here in San Diego for several weeks. They feed on the berries of the pepper trees.—FRANK STEPHENS, *San Diego, California, April 19, 1920.*

Notes from Escondido, California.—On March 1 a friend brought me two Crossbills that were taken from a flock of six feeding in his orchard. Three were shot under the impression that they were Linnets. His cat got one and the other two, being shot with a 22 rifle, were pretty badly used up. Of one it was impossible to determine the sex; the other appeared to be a male. Both are young birds showing more or less of yellow in the plumage. A peculiarity of one of them is in the crossing of the upper mandible on the left.

These birds appear to be *Loxia curvirostra bendirei*, and are the first Crossbills ever seen by me here, and as far as I know are the first recorded from this county. It is very possible that they may work south through the county in the higher mountains, but so far none seems to have been reported, all authorities available giving the range as extending "as far south as Pasadena in winter".

The measurements of the two birds, in millimeters, are as follows:

Length	Wing	Tail	Tarsus	Culmen	Bill from nostril	Depth of bill
166	97	59	18	18.0	15.0	10
166	94	55	18	17.5	14.5	10

Another new record for this section is that for *Molothrus ater obscurus*, the Dwarf Cowbird. I have been looking for this species for many years, and I found my first egg in a nest of the Least Vireo (*Vireo belli pusillus*) at Fallbrook on June 11, 1919. Al-

though the bird was not secured it was plainly visible at a distance of not over 50 feet, as it sat on a fence post watching me. It was without doubt referable to this subspecies.

This winter there has been a remarkable vertical migration of the Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*) from the higher mountains to the east of us, to the much lower canyons on the west leading to the coast. Such a migration is a very rare event here, even for a few birds. This winter they have come down in good-sized flocks and have not appeared to be any more wild than Mourning Doves would be. It has not been in any way an unusual winter in the mountains, so their coming is rather hard to explain.

There seem to have been an unusual number of the Whistling Swan (*Olor columbianus*) seen in the state this winter. In the latter part of January my attention was called to a large white bird flying north very high up and which was undoubtedly of this species. A few days afterwards three were reported to me as having been seen on a lake near here. Stephens, in his paper on the birds of San Diego County, mentions the species as "a rare winter visitant". I have lived in the county for thirty years and never saw it before.—C. S. SHARP, *Escondido, California, April 15, 1920.*

Notes on Nutcrackers in Monterey County, California—Persistent reports during the past winter of the Clark Nutcracker, or Clark Crow as so many people call it (*Nucifraga columbiana*), at Pacific Grove and Carmel, Monterey County, California, finally proved too much for my curiosity to withstand and led me to investigate the matter in person. A trip to Carmel was made on March 8, 1920, and one of these somber but saucy birds was about the first bird in view as the main street was reached. For the next two weeks one or more of these fellows was seen almost every day, although there were a couple of days toward the last of my stay when none was seen or heard. On those two days I thought that they must at last have left for the higher altitudes which are their natural abode, but the succeeding days showed them to be still with us.

While the Nutcrackers were usually in small companies they did not seem actually to flock together and nine was the largest number that I was positive of having seen at one time. There may have been more in the town, but there appeared to be good reason to believe that there were not *many* more, if any, for the town is small and these birds are commonly very noisy. When this number had collected in a small area no others were heard, at any rate.

The Nutcrackers had discovered that kitchen doors and back yards were good for some free "hand-outs", and they systematically visited many such. While they fed to some extent on the Monterey pines, apparently more intent upon the tips of young buds than upon the contents of the cones, they picked also a good many scraps and bits of grain or crumbs in the streets, paying no attention to people twenty or thirty feet away, but becoming wary of closer approach. They seemed to have certain hours for being in certain places, and for the first few days of my stay appeared in the street opposite the dining room window while we were at breakfast.

The cook at the El Monte Hotel used to put some bits of food on top of an eight-foot stump, reachable from the kitchen steps, and this out-door dining room was visited at least once a day for quite a while. As the household cat also had an eye to this arrangement, which in fact was originally made on his account, and as his visits were very irregular we could not always count on when the birds would come to feed here, as the cat was apt to include his avian visitors among the list of edibles—as I found out to my sorrow.

Dr. Walter K. Fisher, living in Pacific Grove, Monterey County, reported them as being there during the winter, and on March 22 I went over to stay a few days with him. There were some of the Nutcrackers in the town, but not as much in evidence as in the smaller town of Carmel. Dr. Fisher said that they seemed to come and go and thought that possibly they often made the trip from one town to the other, a distance of only three or four miles, with a hilly forest between.

In Pacific Grove lived a young lady who had enjoyed the sort of education that trains the mind for accurate observation, and this lady told me that on March 24, while she and her mother were resting from a walk in a picnic ground outside the town limits, some Nutcrackers came around and were feeding on crumbs, etc., left by picnic parties. As they were watching them one of the Nutcrackers began gathering sticks and other

nest-building material and flew with this to a neighboring clump of pine trees. I went with her the next day to the spot, but saw neither the birds nor any evidence of a nest, which, however, does not in any way cast aspersions upon her word. While the bird may not have been actually building, the instinct may have been strong and the nesting season was at hand.

As late as the last week in April the Nutcrackers were still in Carmel and Pacific Grove, as reported to me by Mr. F. C. Holman, a member of the C. O. C., and with whom I was collecting during this stay. Dr. Fisher thought they might possibly change their habits and nest somewhere in the vicinity, and promised to watch them as far as lay in his power.

It was my good fortune during the fortnight spent in Carmel to come across two specimens of the Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*) to add to the comparatively few records for this state. One of these was taken at Carmel on March 12, and the other in Pine Canyon, near Salinas, Monterey County, on March 19.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, May 6, 1920.*

Western Tanager in Santa Cruz Mountains in Summer.—While on a visit at Alma, Santa Clara County, California, from June 16 to 23, 1917, I heard and saw a number of Western Tanagers (*Piranga ludoviciana*). From perches well up in the coniferous trees the males were droning out their monotonous songs, and to all appearances the species was established for the summer.—TRACY I. STORER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, May 14, 1920.*

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

Perhaps the most important ornithological happening announced in recent months is the resumption of activity on the part of the American Ornithologists' Union Committee on Nomenclature. According to the April *Auk* a two-day meeting was held in Washington, D. C., in February. As lately reconstituted the committee consists of Witmer Stone, Jonathan Dwight, H. C. Oberholser, T. S. Palmer, and Charles W. Richmond. It seems to us that this is a well-balanced representation of our ornithologists, as regards the varying views entertained currently in systematic ornithology. Probably no one question is more pressing than that of the constitution of the genus. In this connection we wish to call attention to the valuable article by the Chairman of the committee, Dr. Stone, in *Science* (vol. LI, April 30, 1920), entitled "The Use and Abuse of the Genus". This article sets forth precisely the dangers which threaten as a result of unlimited splitting, and, in our mind, makes the sanest sort of recommendations as to the course of action which should be followed henceforth by working systematists. It is fortunate that a man of Dr. Stone's views is at the head of the committee which will determine the names employed in the next official check-list of North American birds.

Mr. C. M. Goethe, of the California Nature Study League, Sacramento, gives a good pointer for bird students. He writes under date of June 2: Again I have been impressed with the advantages of the sleeping bag in bird study. On a trip last week-end into Cache Creek Canyon, Yolo County, dawn brought several thrilling experiences scarcely to be obtained otherwise. Quail with their young came almost within arm's reach. An oriole sang from a perch in a redbud immediately above the sleeping bag. Titmouses, flycatchers and grosbeaks were watched at similarly close range.

Dr. Edward W. Nelson, Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, is spending the summer in northwestern Alaska, where he is looking after the reindeer problem which was assigned to the Survey for attention. Dr. Nelson, it will be recalled, spent four years, 1877-1881, in Alaska, chiefly in the vicinity of Saint Michael. His report upon the birds observed by him during that period remains the most important ornithological publication ever issued relative to Alaska.

Miss Ellen Scripps, of La Jolla, California, is giving the San Diego Society of Natural History two thousand dollars per month, to be continued for two years, to enable the Society to move into larger quarters and to